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LETTER DATED 6 JULY 1995 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Further to our note dated 29 June 1995 (S/1995/534), and upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to Your Excellency, the attached note from H.E. Sayed Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan, regarding the recent military aggression by the armed forces of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on the Sudanese province of Halaib.

I request Your Excellency, to kindly circulate the attached note as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hamid Ali ELTINAY
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 6 July 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to our earlier notes to you, the most recent being that dated 29 June 1995 (S/1995/534), concerning the aggression by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt against the Sudanese province of Halaib, we set forth below for your esteemed Council the developments and particulars that have emerged subsequent to our above-mentioned note:

1. At 2000 hours on 27 June 1995, the Egyptian forces made an armed attack on the Abu Ramad police station, using elite strike forces and breaking into the station after fighting and an exchange of gunfire. The Sudanese Police Force lost three men, First Lieutenant Mahmud, financial secretary, Constable (First Class) Anwar Mustafa and Constable Abidin Taha, who died as a result of his wounds. In addition, there were two disappearances. The remaining members of the force, 14 constables, officers and non-commissioned officers, were stripped of their weapons and detained at Abu Ramad blindfolded and with hands tied.

2. This attack coincided with similar attacks on the following locations:

(a) Shalatayn police post: the Sudanese force is eight men strong. Its position was raided by Egyptian forces, and the Sudanese force lost two men. Six non-commissioned officers and a constable were detained stripped of their weapons by the Egyptian forces.

(b) Badi' 11 post: as a result of the attack on it, two men from the Sudanese force disappeared, and seven returned with their weapons to Halaib.

(c) Nuss post: six men from the Sudanese force stationed at this post were forced to leave for the town of Halaib, while four others fled to Port Sudan.

(d) Sahil post: two members of the eight-men force died, and the remainder reached Halaib following the fighting that continued for nine hours.

3. At 0300 hours on 28 June 1995, the commander of the Halaib garrison arrived in Abu Ramad to reconnoitre the situation. He was not permitted to meet with the Egyptian commander and the detained police officers, who had in the mean time been taken to an Egyptian intelligence building 28 kilometres north of Halaib, known as the "White House". The garrison commander was obliged to return to Halaib, and, as soon as he had left, the detainees were moved to Abu Ramad, where they were photographed by video camera and received extremely bad treatment.

4. At 0500 hours on the same day, Wednesday, 28 June 1995, the detainees from Abu Ramad were moved to the western mountains near Nuss post and thence to the 22nd parallel crossing point.

5. On 29 June 1995, the Egyptian forces moved three of our wounded officers to the Ma'adi hospital for treatment. One of them was wounded in the lung and is still under treatment, but there is still no information on the other missing members of the force. The representative of the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo has not been allowed to know their condition.

6. At 0930 hours on Saturday, 1 July 1995, four Egyptian military aircraft (MIGs) flew in the direction of Abu Ramad to the 22nd parallel, with a view to terrorizing the inhabitants of Halaib. The Egyptian forces also broke the sound barrier repeatedly with Egyptian jet fighters and fired mortar shells that passed over the town and fell into the sea.

7. The members of the Sudanese Police Force who were detained and removed from the area were subjected to the looting of their assets, personal belongings and weapons by the Egyptian forces. Those attacks coincided with the distribution of leaflets to Sudanese citizens to evacuate the city, which inspired terror in citizens and induced them to flee their homes.

8. The town of Halaib was besieged by five Egyptian battalions, as against one Sudanese battalion inside the town. This latter was repeatedly prevented from obtaining drinking water that had previously been supplied from outside the town, and the Red Sea Governor was prevented from entering the town of Halaib.

(1) You will perhaps have noted from the above that the Egyptian Government is taking many steps and engaging in many organized military acts of aggression in open hostility against Sudanese territory, which constitutes a breach of international instruments and laws.

(2) The failure of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt to respond to the many calls of the Government of the Sudan for the resumption of dialogue and its application, at the same time, of military measures in Sudanese territory affirm the Egyptian Government's lack of will to resolve the dispute by peaceful means, and this constitutes a threat to peace, security and stability in the region as a whole.

(3) The Egyptian position has remained characterized by continuing persistence in the rejection of all efforts and initiatives by the Sudan to resolve the problem and deal with the dispute by bilateral negotiation and reflects Egyptian refusal and ongoing procrastination regarding the convening of any bilateral meetings between the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the two countries within the framework of a joint commission.

(4) The Egyptian Government is acting in accordance with a policy of perpetuation of the status quo, the use of military provocation against the Sudan and insistence that Halaib is Egyptian and not subject to negotiation. This conflicts with the Charter of the United Nations and the principle of the inadmissibility of the use of force to annex the territory of others. While the Egyptian Government has continued to deny that the Halaib area is Sudanese and to claim that it is Egyptian and to reject negotiation concerning it with the Sudanese Government, it has unremittingly called on the Arab parties engaged in border disputes to negotiate and to seek to resolve those disputes by peaceful means. This constitutes a system of double standards and affirms its method of

imposing the policy of the fait accompli with regard to the occupation of the Sudanese Halaib. Moreover, the Egyptian Government itself negotiated with Israel regarding the recovery of the Taba area.

The Government of the Sudan reiterates its call to the Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities fully and to accord the necessary consideration to the question of Egyptian aggression against the Sudan by exerting the necessary pressure on the Egyptian Government to carry out the following:

(a) To accept international arbitration on the question of the dispute regarding Halaib; non-resort to the use of force; and the immediate commencement of action to resolve the dispute by peaceful means in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(b) To withdraw the Egyptian military presence from the Halaib area and to refrain from applying a policy of perpetuation of the fait accompli and confirmation of Egyptian occupation of the area, with payment of compensation to the families of the victims of its attacks.

I reaffirm the readiness of the Government of the Sudan to make every possible effort with a view to arriving at a peaceful solution of the problem of Halaib that will embody the ties of brotherhood between the Sudanese and Egyptian peoples, within the framework of their principles of good neighbourliness and international cooperation and with full commitment to international and regional instruments.

(Signed) Ali Osman Mohamed TAHA
Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the Republic of the Sudan